

Benjamin Lerman
1828 Hopkins St.
Berkeley CA 94707

Aug 31st 2018

Via ECFS
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

For years I used AT&T for my home DSL. The rates were high, the speeds were slow, and the service was downright awful. Every time there was a problem, which was frequent, I had to prepare myself for hours of blood-pressure-raising time on the phone with incompetent off-shore call-center employees. Then one day I discovered that there was an alternative, a local ISP whose storefront was just a few blocks from my house. The cost was 30% lower, the speed was doubled and far more reliable, and when there was a problem, I was talking to someone I knew, who could usually quickly resolve it over the phone--or would come out promptly to my home when necessary.

Big companies like AT&T have no motivation to improve service or pricing if there is no competition. Americans pay more for slower service than almost any other country in the developed world. The FCC needs to everything possible to INCREASE competition to serve consumers best, and certainly should not be taking steps that will decrease it.

Benjamin Lerman